

What is claimed:

1. A predictive text system for use with a mobile device having a reduced-key QWERTY keyboard,
5 a display, and an alert mechanism, comprising:

an ambiguous word list comprising a plurality of keystroke combinations, each keystroke combination representing a plurality of key selections on the reduced-key QWERTY keyboard, wherein the keystroke combinations present in the ambiguous word list are associated with more than one common predicted word; and

10 a predictive text system module for receiving an input keystroke combination from the reduced-key QWERTY keyboard and for determining a predicted word for the input keystroke combination, wherein the predicted word is displayed on the display of the mobile device;

wherein the predictive text system module engages the alert mechanism on the mobile device if the input keystroke combination is present in the ambiguous word list.

15 2. The predictive text system of claim 1, further comprising:

a dictionary database;

wherein the predictive text system determines the predicted word by matching the input keystroke combination with one or more predicted words stored in the dictionary database.

20 3. The predictive text system of claim 2, further comprising:

a grammar rules database;

wherein if the predictive text system determines that there is more than one predicted word associated with the keystroke combination, it determines the predicted word by applying a set of
25 grammar rules from the grammar rules database to the input keystroke combination.

4. The predictive text system of claim 1, further comprising:

an alerts store for storing data that causes the mobile device to engage the alert mechanism.

5 5. The predictive text system of claim 1, wherein the alert mechanism is a change in the colour of the predicted word on the display.

6. The predictive text system of claim 1, wherein the alert mechanism is an audible tone.

10 7. The predictive text system of claim 1, wherein the alert mechanism is a vibration device.

8. The predictive text system of claim 1, wherein the predicted words for each keystroke combination are organised in the ambiguous word list by frequency of occurrence in the language of the predicted words.

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9. The predictive text system of claim 8, wherein the language is English.

10. The predictive text system of claim 1, further comprising:

a dictionary database containing one or more predicted words associated with a plurality of

20 keystroke combinations; and

a grammar rules database containing a plurality of grammatical constructs that describe proper grammar in a particular language; and

wherein the predictive text system module accesses the grammar rules database to determine the most probable part of speech of the input keystroke combination, and then uses this
25 determination to select one of the predicted words from the dictionary database.

11. The predictive text system of claim 10, wherein the dictionary database provides a word tag for each predicted word, the word tag indicating the part of speech of the predicted word.

12. The predictive text system of claim 11, wherein the predictive text system module compares the determination of the most probable part of speech to the word tags in the ambiguous word list in order to select one of the predicted words from the dictionary database.

13. The predictive text system of claim 1, further comprising:

a selection list comprising a plurality of alternative predicted words for each of a plurality of keystroke combinations; and

a data selection device for selecting information displayed on the mobile device;

wherein in response to a user activating the data selection device, the predictive text system module retrieves the alternative predicted words associated with the input keystroke combination and displays the alternative predicted words on the display.

14. The predictive text system of claim 13, wherein the data selection device is utilised by the user to select one of the alternative predicted words set forth on the display.

15. The predictive text system of claim 1, wherein the ambiguous word list is modifiable by a user of the mobile device.

16. The predictive text system of claim 13, wherein the selection list is modifiable by a user of the mobile device.

17. The predictive text system of claim 1, further comprising:

a grammar rules database;

wherein the predictive text system applies one or more grammatical rules from the grammar rules database to the input keystroke combination and disables the alert mechanism on the mobile device.

18. A mobile device, comprising:

a reduced-key QWERTY keyboard;

a display;

an alert mechanism;

an ambiguous word list comprising a plurality of keystroke combinations, each keystroke combination representing a plurality of key selections on the reduced-key QWERTY keyboard, wherein the keystroke combinations present in the ambiguous word list are associated with more than one common predicted word; and

a predictive text system module for receiving an input keystroke combination from the reduced-key QWERTY keyboard and for determining a predicted word for the input keystroke combination, wherein the predicted word is displayed on the display of the mobile device;

wherein the predictive text system module engages the alert mechanism on the mobile device if the input keystroke combination is present in the ambiguous word list.

19. The mobile device of claim 18, further comprising:

a dictionary database;

wherein the predictive text system determines the predicted word by matching the input keystroke combination with one or more predicted words stored in the dictionary database.

20. The mobile device of claim 19, further comprising:

a grammar rules database;

wherein if the predictive text system determines that there is more than one predicted word associated with the keystroke combination, it determines the predicted word by applying a set of

5 grammar rules from the grammar rules database to the input keystroke combination.

21. The mobile device of claim 18, further comprising:

an alerts store for storing data that causes the mobile device to engage the alert mechanism.

10 22. The mobile device of claim 18, wherein the alert mechanism is a change in the colour of the predicted word on the display.

23. The mobile device of claim 18, wherein the alert mechanism is an audible tone.

15 24. The mobile device of claim 18, wherein the alert mechanism is a vibration device.

25. The mobile device of claim 18, wherein the predicted words for each keystroke combination are organised in the ambiguous word list by frequency of occurrence in the language of the predicted words.

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26. The mobile device of claim 18, further comprising:

a dictionary database containing one or more predicted words associated with a plurality of keystroke combinations; and

a grammar rules database containing a plurality of grammatical constructs that describe

25 proper grammar in a particular language; and

wherein the predictive text system module accesses the grammar rules database to determine the most probable part of speech of the input keystroke combination, and then uses this determination to select one of the predicted words from the dictionary database.

5 27. The mobile device of claim 26, wherein the dictionary database provides a word tag for each predicted word, the word tag indicating the part of speech of the predicted word.

28. The mobile device of claim 27, wherein the predictive text system module compares the determination of the most probable part of speech to the word tags in the ambiguous word list in
10 order to select one of the predicted words from the dictionary database.

29. The mobile device of claim 18, further comprising:

 a selection list comprising a plurality of alternative predicted words for each of a plurality of keystroke combinations; and

15 a data selection device for selecting information displayed on the mobile device;

 wherein in response to a user activating the data selection device, the predictive text system module retrieves the alternative predicted words associated with the input keystroke combination and displays the alternative predicted words on the display.

20 30. The mobile device of claim 29, wherein the data selection device is utilised by the user to select one of the alternative predicted words set forth on the display.

31. The mobile device of claim 18, further comprising:

 a grammar rules database;

wherein the predictive text system applies one or more grammatical rules from the grammar rules database to the input keystroke combination and disables the alert mechanism on the mobile device.